

SOUTH LAFOURCHE A. B. C.

LOCATION: South Lafourche (A) encompasses all the land covered by the new South Lafourche levee currently under construction. The northern boundary of this EMU is the Intracoastal Waterway. The eastern boundary is the levee, basically at the 40 Arpent Line and the Environmental Management Unit of North Little Lake, Clovelly, Clovelly Farms and South Barataria. The western boundaries are the levee and Environmental Management Units of Golden Meadow, Raccourci, and Bully Camp. South Lafourche (B) and (C) are currently drained by small protection levees and used mainly for agricultural purposes. They may be included in the new levee system but basically have a similar environment.

South Lafourche B is bordered on the north and east by the Clovelly Environmental Management Unit, on the south by the South Barataria Environmental Management Unit, and on the west by the South Lafourche A Environmental Management Unit.

South Lafourche C Environmental Management Unit is bordered on the north, south, and west by the Bully Camp Environmental Management Unit, and on the east by the South Lafourche A Environmental Management Unit and the South Lafourche Levee.

SOILS: Drained, and brackish freshwater marsh consisting of organic material several feet thick and underlain by gray clay. A minor part of the land has a thin organic surface layer underlain by a gray clay. Soil has slow permeability and, thus, is subject to flooding. Along Bayou Lafourche, Sharkey-Tunica Association soils are found. These are alkaline soils, poorly drained and subject to flooding.

VEGETATION: Modified wetlands. Surface features and hydrology have been altered such that natural marsh vegetation (freshwater and brackish marsh) no longer grows. Land between Delta Farms and Clovelly Farms is altered fresh water marsh. Most of the area is shrub and pasture. Wooded areas are found south to Galliano along the bayou. Scattered stands of cypress stands can be found in the southern tip of the unit in the drained section.

SUBSIDENCE POTENTIAL IF DRAINED: Moderate on drained freshwater and brackish marsh soils. None on mineral soils that have no organic layers. These are the alluvial soils along Bayou Lafourche.

LAND LOSS POTENTIAL DUE TO CHANNEL CONSTRUCTION: Medium along Bayou Lafourche. High between Delta and Clovelly Farms.

TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES The entire area is mainly flat, some areas having subsided below sea level after this EMU was drained and leveed. Elevations are generally less than +1 MSL. Land directly adjacent to Bayou Lafourche along the small natural levee varies from slightly above +5 feet MSL above Belle Amie to +1 to 2 feet MSL at the southern end of the natural levee near Golden Meadow.

FLOODING POTENTIAL: The area is within the new protection levee being constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This new levee will be as high as 14 feet and will protect the area from hurricane floods. The net grade elevation of the levee will be 13 feet MSL at its southern end (Golden Meadow) and 8.5 feet MSL at the northern end (Larose). Floodgates will cross Lafourche at the Town of Golden Meadow and at Larose. The navigation width of each gate will be 56 feet. The protection levee will roughly follow the 40 Arpent Canal through most of this unit.

IMPORTANT FARMLANDS: Prime farmlands are located directly adjacent to Bayou Lafourche. Farmlands of statewide importance can be found throughout the study unit near Bayou Lafourche.

USE OF LAND: Strip residential and commercial development are the dominating uses along the bank of Bayou Lafourche. Louisiana Highways 1 and 308 are the major land transportation arteries. The two highways are connected by bridges at Larose, Cut Off, Golden Meadow, and Galliano. Bayou Lafourche is a major water transportation artery. Principal tonnage items include shells, sulphur, water, drilling mud, crude oil, cement, and steel. Shrimp and oyster tonnage is smaller but of a higher value. A large amount of the shipping traffic occurs in the portion of the bayou between the Gulf of Mexico and the Intracoastal Waterway at Larose.

UNIQUE ECOLOGICAL FEATURES: None.

RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL: Access to hunting and fishing areas is available via Bayou Lafourche and Louisiana Highways 308 and 1 into the adjacent swamp and marsh lands.

HYDROLOGIC RESOURCES: Normal tidal effects in Bayou Lafourche are observable as far inland as Breton Canal, north of Golden Meadow. The major source of inflow into Bayou Lafourche is rainfall runoff and controlled diversion (260 cubic feet per second) at Donaldsonville. Freshwater is found to a depth of 300 feet from Larose to below Clovelly Farms. However, this water is not fit for human consumption. Residents are served by water pumped from the Mississippi River at Donaldsonville.

HISTORIC/CULTURAL/ARCHEOLOGICAL:

A. Historic Sites:

1. Petit Caporal: Shrimp boat on permanent display in Golden Meadow; built around 1854, oldest existing shrimp boat known in Louisiana

B. Cultural Sites: The east banks of Bayou Lafourche are largely residential and scattered commercial development. Housing along the bayou is closely spaced due to a lack of high land and a preference to live on the bayou and the major transportation routes.

Golden Meadow is the first high land from the Gulf of Mexico. Incorporated in 1950, the town was populated by people from Grand Isle and Leeville fleeing disastrous storms. Originally a fishing, agricultural community; oil and gas development brought in more people from other parts of Lafourche Parish, Louisiana, Texas, and other states. Golden Meadow is also the site of the "Golden Meadow International Tarpon Rodeo". Other large communities in this study unit include Larose, Cut Off and Galliano. Two large festivals are held each summer in Galliano - the "Louisiana Oyster Festival" and the "Cajun Festival". Annual Blessing of the Shrimp Fleet occur in both Galliano and Golden Meadow.

C. Archeological Sites: None.

PROBLEMS NOTED:

1. Stress on environment due to population demand for more land
2. Low subsidence potential and medium land loss away from Bayou Lafourche
3. Sewage disposal problems due to high water table and low permeability of soils in the inhabited areas of the study unit
4. Saltwater intrusion

GOALS

1. Encourage continued development of commercial, industrial, and residential development
- 2 For South Lafourche B and C, encourage existing uses until, or if new South Lafourche levee system surrounds the area and makes it fit for more intensive human habitation.

POLICIES FOR SOUTH LAFOURCHE A. B. C.

POLICIES FOR SOUTH LAFOURCHE A

South Lafourche "A" contains almost all of the population in the Lafourche Coastal Zone. It is protected from flooding by a series of small levees and the South Lafourche Levee and Floodgate system. Upon completion of the new levee system with its increased levee heights, floodgates, and a system of pumping stations, the area will be afforded significantly greater protection from storm flooding and will offer the only reasonably safe place to live within the Lafourche Coastal Zone.

POLICY 1. The General Policies of the Lafourche Coastal Zone will not apply to this EMU since the former wetland areas have already been drained and altered for human habitation.

POLICY A. Permanent human habitation is encouraged here due to the large areas of open space still available and protected by the levee system.

POLICY 3. Industrial and commercial development is encouraged throughout this EMU as long as these activities do not significantly add to water pollution in the surrounding wetland areas.

POLICY 4. Due to poor foundation conditions inherent in drained wetland soils, especially organic marsh soils, careful attention should be paid to requiring adequate foundations for homes, businesses, roads, etc. built on these soils. Use of flexible connectors for gas lines, and other innovative materials and techniques will avoid costly maintenance and dangerous conditions in these areas.

POLICY 5. The water table should be maintained relatively high in drained wetland areas by the use of the "wet system" of drainage. This will minimize the subsidence of the land and allow easier forced drainage.

POLICY 6. Development of the area inclosed by the South Lafourche "A" levee should be closely coordinated with the Lafourche Parish Water District 1, the only water source for the entire region.

POLICY 7. Recreational access to wetlands, lakes and bayous surrounding the South Lafourche levee system should be maintained and expanded through the parish and state recreation programs. This includes construction of boat ramps and/or marina areas to facilitate access to the wetland recreational resources.

POLICY 8. The Bayou- Lafourche clean-out campaign initiated by the Greater Lafourche Port Commission should be encouraged to continue to remove hazards to navigation, as well as unsightly trash and debris.

POLICY 9. The construction of relocated Highway 1 should be completed as quickly as possible to allow proper evacuation of the lower coastal zone into this arenas well as alleviate traffic congestion along current Highway 1.

POLICY 10. Solid waste and hazardous waste dumping prohibitions should be strictly enforced by the coastal zone program as well as other applicable programs. Disposal of wastes should be accomplished here as per parish health and sanitary regulations. Anti-litter laws should be strictly enforced.

POLICY 11. Bulkheading along Bayou Lafourche should be maintained in good condition to prohibit erosion from boat wakes onto highway 1 or 308, or the residential, commercial, or industrial establishments along the bayou.

POLICIES FOR SOUTH LAFOURCHE B AND C

It is undecided at this time whether all or parts of the areas protected by these levee systems are to be included in the new South Lafourche Levee System. Currently the area is drained and only minimally protected from flooding. Current land uses are mainly agricultural.

POLICY 12. If the South Lafourche Levee System encompasses all or parts of these two EMU's, those parts protected by the new levee will have South Lafourche Policies 1 - 11 applied to them.

POLICY 13. Drained areas in South Lafourche B and C not protected by the new levee system should have land uses consistent with those currently in effect,(i.e. agricultural or pasture uses.) Human habitation should be discouraged here due to flooding damage potential from storms and inadequate drainage.

POLICY 14. The general Policies of the Lafourche Coastal Zone will not apply to these EMU's, since the former wetland areas have already been drained and altered for human habitation.

Besides these guidelines, all coastal use guidelines as stated in the F.E.I.S. of the Louisiana Coastal Zone Management Program shall apply to this EMU

Where EMU policies refer to a "use of state concern", the policies are intended only as recommendations to the state program managers and are not legally binding on the permit applicant or the state CZM program.